

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

14 JUL 1975

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: President Mobutu's Renewed Expression of Concern  
Over the Lack of U.S. Government Support to the  
FNLA.

1. On 13 July Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko again conveyed--through an emissary--his concern [redacted] over the lack of U.S. Government support to the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA). Mobutu said that despite Ambassador Vance's "promise" to obtain further aid for the FNLA, no U.S. aid has been forthcoming to balance recent Soviet assistance to the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). Further, an FNLA official now in Kinshasa told Mobutu that he had spoken with the U.S. Consul General in Luanda who said that there is no possibility for U.S. aid to the FNLA because of U.S. domestic opinion resulting from our experience in South Vietnam.

2. [redacted] assured Mobutu's emissary that the U.S. Government is very concerned about the Angolan situation. He stressed that Ambassador Vance attributed great importance to this issue, but added that the Ambassador had not promised to provide aid but only to urge Washington that aid be provided. [redacted] further stressed that officials at the highest level are following the situation closely.

3. In discussing the current situation in Angola, Mobutu's emissary said the Zairian Government is providing its own military materiel to the FNLA, including supplies provided by North Vietnam for a new Zairian Army division, but this is a considerable sacrifice which weakens the security of Zaire.

[redacted] indicate that the FNLA is on the verge of losing its position in Luanda and may attempt a desperate counterattack, presumably using the Zairian-supplied munitions. As Luanda reporting notes, a complete FNLA withdrawal from Luanda will give the MPLA a decisive political advantage.)

4. [redacted] meet Mobutu on 14 July to discuss the Angolan situation further. FNLA President Holden Roberto, who had gone to the FNLA base at Kinkuzu in southern Zaire, has also been recalled to Kinshasa to meet with Mobutu.

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14 JUL 1975

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: President Mobutu's Concern Over Lack of U.S.  
Government Support to Holden Roberto.

1. On 11 July Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko informed [redacted] through an intermediary that he has solid information that the Soviets are continuing to pour in arms for the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) through the Congo and that such shipments during the week of 6 July 1975 included SA-7 missiles. According to the intermediary, Mobutu said this presents an extremely grave situation for Holden Roberto, leader of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA). He said Mobutu cannot understand the failure of the U.S. Government to take any action. The U.S. had sent a military mission to Zaire--admittedly not to discuss Angola--and Mobutu has urged our assistance on many occasions, including during discussions with Ambassador Vance. Yet, while the Soviets continue to assist the MPLA, neither Zaire nor Roberto has received "even one cartridge" from the U.S. Government.

2. In response to the foregoing, [redacted] informed the intermediary that the provision of aid is being seriously considered by the U.S. Government but no decision has yet been reached. He promised to report to Washington again on the urgency of the situation.

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[redacted]